

EVENTS CALENDAR



Mershon Center Speaker Series



TOMMIE SHELBY

Prisons of the Forgotten: King on Ghettoes and Economic Justice

Friday, January 13, 2017, 3:30PM - 5:00PM

Mershon Center for International Security Studies

Room 120

1501 Neil Avenue

Columbus, Ohio 43201

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Tommie Shelby received his B.A. from Florida A & M University (1990) and Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh (1998). Prior to coming to Harvard in 2000, he taught philosophy at Ohio State University (1996-2000). His main areas of research and teaching are Africana philosophy, social and political philosophy, philosophy of race, and social theory.

He is the author of *We Who Are Dark: The Philosophical Foundations of Black Solidarity* (Harvard, 2005) and co-editor (with Derrick Darby) of *Hip Hop and Philosophy: Rhyme 2 Reason* (Open Court, 2005).

Abstract

King believed that racial injustice and economic injustice have always been linked in America. Tommie Shelby takes up the race-class nexus by considering King's analysis of ghetto poverty. Like Jim Crow segregation, ghetto conditions are a threat to dignity. But they are also incompatible with economic fairness and non-exploitative labor relations. Shelby discusses King's practical proposals for ending poverty in the United States and considers four principles of economic justice (each found in King's writings) that might justify these recommended remedies. He also takes up the question of what kind of egalitarian King was and whether he is best described as a socialist.



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